

TRANSCRIPTION - ORIGINAL FOLLOWS

MEMORANDUM FOR VICE CHIEF OF STAFF

SUBJECT: Man in Space Program

1. On 17 March 1958 representatives from the Air Research and Development Command presented their concept of a method to demonstrate, at the earliest possible date, a safe manned space flight. The concept envisions a manned capsule with associated equipment for escape, deceleration, guidance, control, communications and instrumentation.

2. Initial boost will be provided by either the Thor or Atlas. The Titan may also be used. The Thor and Atlas would require additional propulsion for this program.

3. When launched on a low latitude orbit from the Missile Test Centers a substantially circular orbit will be established at [illeg] miles. Recovery can be initiated on the first, second or twelfth orbit.

4. The program will start with a series of instrumental capsules, followed by [illeg] tests, and of approximately twenty-six [4 words illeg] the first manned orbital flight will take place.

5. The total Air Force "Man in Space" Program toward a mid-1960 operational date is estimated to be as follows:

	<u>FY 59</u>
P-100	82.0
P-200	11.5
P-300	2.5
P-600	<u>57.0</u>
	153.0

6. If the Air Force does not receive the full fund support for the above program the following projects could be progressively undertaken with a resultant delay of the first manned capsule [illeg] from mid-1960 to [illeg] future date:

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20 MAR 1958

SUBJECT: Man in Space Program

1. On 17 March 1958 representatives from the Air Research and Development Command presented their concept of a method to demonstrate, at the earliest possible date, a safe manned space flight. The concept envisions a manned capsule with associated equipment for escape, deceleration, guidance, control, communications and instrumentation.

2. Initial boost will be provided by either the Thor or Atlas. The Titan may also be used. The Thor and Atlas would require additional stages of propulsion. The Titan may be sufficient without additional propulsion for this program.

3. When launched on a low latitude orbit from the Missile Test Center a substantially circular orbit will be established at 200 miles. Recovery can be initiated on the first, second or third orbit.

4. The program will start with a series of instrumented launches, followed by actual tests, and at approximately twenty-six months from launch the first manned orbital flight will take place.

5. The total Air Force "Man in Space" Program toward a mid-1960 operational date is estimated to be as follows:

	<u>FX 52</u>
P-100	62.0
P-600	11.5
P-300	2.5
P-500	<u>37.0</u>
	113.0

6. If the Air Force does not receive the full fiscal support for the above program the following projects could be progressively infested with a resultant delay of the first manned capsule launch from mid-1960 to some future date:

TRANSCRIPTION - ORIGINAL FOLLOWS

Memo for Vice Chief of Staff: Subj: Man in Space Program

a. \$16.0 Million - For development of small-animal carrying capsules and components for [illeg] in conjunction with THOR-boosted WS 117L launches, starting in November 1958.

b. \$5.0 Million - For assembly buildings, and launch pad and instrumentation modifications.

c. [illeg] Million - For man-size capsule and second stage booster design, development and test, as well as the procurement of support test vehicles.

d. \$15.0 Million - For fabrication of a small number of capsules, including second stages and boosters.

e. \$67 Million - For design, development, test and procurement of capsules, second stages, boosters, and support test vehicles leading to the earliest possible second space flight.

[3 lines illeg]

Mem for Vice Chief of Staff, Subj: Man in Space Program

a. \$10.0 Million - For development of small animal carrying capsules and components for use in conjunction with TIK-boosted WS J172 launches, starting in November 1958.

b. \$5.0 Million - For assembly buildings, and launch pad and instrumentation modifications.

c. \$20.0 Million - For man-size capsule and second stage booster design, development and test, as well as the procurement of support test vehicles.

d. \$15.0 Million - For fabrication of a small number of capsules, including second stages and boosters.

e. \$5.0 Million - For design, development, test and procurement of capsules, second stages, boosters, and support test vehicles leading to the earliest possible manned space flight.

319. L. Mills, Maj Gen

AFTRD-SX/ Lt Col [redacted]
Asst. Dir. - Chief of Staff
Research and

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AFTRD
AFDEC

[redacted]